Renaming of Imphal Airport

*27. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:—

(a) the steps taken for renaming the Imphal Airport in the name of Manipur Hero "Bir Tikendrajit";

(b) whether the proposal has been communicated to the state Government for their decision;

(c) if so, when it has been communicated to the State Government and what is the State Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons for keeping it pending?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) A suggestion for renaming of Imphal airport after the memory of Bir Tikendrajit was made in December, 1998. The matter has been referred for the recommendation of the State Government.

Cases of Income Tax, customs and excise pending for settlement

†*28. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of disputed cases related to income-tax, customs and excise are lying pending for settlement in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of these cases till the end of September, 1999, separately; and

(c) the amount involved therein and the number of cases which have been pending for more than 3 years, 5 years and 10 years separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There are 1839 cases relating to income tax pending as on 30th September, 1999, for settlement with the Income Tax Settlement Commission. No case

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

relating to customs and central excise was pending on that date with the Customs & Central Excise Settlement Commission, as it has been set up recently.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the amount, as this is to be decided by the Settlement Commission on finalisation of the cases. The number of cases pending for more than 3 years, 5 years and 10 years are 785, 319 and 31 respectively.

Privatisation of maintenance of National Highways

*29. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to offer the maintenance of National Highways to private parties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether his Ministry is planning to work out contract documents for implementing maintenance by private contract scheme;

(d) if so, the highlights of the contract documents;

(e) the details of arrangement for supervision, monitoring and evaluation by Government; and

(f) when and where the pilot project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This is to bring in savings in maintenance cost.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Details/modalities have not been finalised.

Demand for Telephones

*30. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's current teledensity is 2.4 telephones per 100 population;

(b) if so, what is the present demand for telephones and likely demand, in millions, by 2005 as well as by 2010;